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Admiral Turner's Pay Hike

THE director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Adm. Stansfield Turner, has managed to get a 41% pay boost which makes President Carter's 7% wage guidelines look like a canoe alongside a destroyer.

It is perfectly legal and Admiral Turner did what any pragmatic person would do: He retired on the last day of 1978 as a four star admiral and thus beat a new law which would have placed a ceiling on the combined federal pay plus federal pension future military retirees may receive. He became immediately eligible for a \$23,390-a-year pension to add to the \$57,500 he receives as CIA chief.

The income of Admiral Turner will now exceed the \$75,000 paid to Vice President Walter Mondale.

The National Taxpayers Union, an anti-tax lobbying group, discovered Admiral Turner's action and in a letter urged that he and other federal employees earning \$57,500 or more "voluntarily abstain from collecting 'dual compensation' while in public office."

A taxpayer lobby spokesman called it "a fiscal outrage against the American taxpayer in view of the so-called war on inflation, a soaring \$123 billion defense budget with more than \$10 billion a year in military pension outlays alone."

It is not clear that Admiral Turner will consider the complaint or the suggestion, but it is clear that the Congress ought to have acted on the dual compensation problem long ago.